

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06521 091644Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 INRE-00 SS-15  
/042 W

-----032187 091709Z /50

O R 091551Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3612  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 6521

DEPT FOR ARA/PA AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SPON, PN  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

THE FOLLOWING SENT ACTION USINFO INFO SECSTATE AND USIA BEING  
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO QUOTE

UNCLAS PANAMA

SECSTATE FOR ARA/PAF & PAN

USIA FOR IOP/M, IBS/PL, IPS/PL, ILA

E.O. 11652: N/A  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

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1-PANAMA CITY--CANAL TREATY: MAIN THEME SEPT. 9 MEDIA IS RALLY  
IN AFTERNOON TO WELCOME GEN. TORRIJOS HOME FROM TREATY SIGNING  
CEREMONY. PRO-GOP MATUTINO'S BANNER HEAD READS, "WELCOME TO  
OMAR TORRIJOS; ALL THE PEOPLE LIKE A HUMAN SEA IN FIFTH ON  
MAY PLAZA." SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA HEADS FRONT PAGE WITH,  
"PANAMANIAN PEOPLE RECEIVE TORRIJOS TODAY AFTER TREATY SIGNING;  
UNPRECEDENTED GATHERING HAS RENDEZVOUS IN FIFTH OF MAY PLAZA."

STAR AND HERALD LEADS WITH, "TORRIJOS TO GET ROUSING WELCOME AT FIFTH OF MAY PLAZA."

2-STORIES DESCRIBE PLANS FOR MASSIVE WELCOME RALLY STARTING 1600 LOCAL TIME, WITH PARTICIPANTS COMING FROM ALL OVER PANAMA. EXPECTED ATTENDANCE ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 100,000 AND 200,000 ACCORDING TO ARTICLES.

3-ALL MORNINGS CARRY PHOTOS OF TORRIJOS WITH WASHINGTON OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRES. CARTER, SEN. SPARKMAN AND ALEJANDRO ORFILA. STAR AND HERALD ALSO RUNS PAGE ONE PHOTO OF MRS. CARTER WITH MRS. TORRIJOS. MATUTINO FRONT PAGEES EFE STORY, "TORRIJOS ASKS US SENATORS FOR CHANGE OF CLOTHES FROM EMOTIONAL TO RATIONAL." AN UPI ITEM, "CARTER WARNS OF SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES IF TREATY IS REJECTED." MATUTINO AND STAR AND HERALD RUN WIRE ITEMS ON NYTIMES EDITORIAL SUPPORTING TREATY. OTHER WIRE SERVICE ARTICLES IN ALL PAPERS COVER TREATY-RELATED TOPICS, SUCH AS OPENING OF SENATE HEARINGS, REAGAN TESTIMONY, CONGRATULATIONS TO TORRIJOS FROM WORLD LEADERS, ETC.

4-MATUTINO EDIT CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF SEPT. 9 WELCOMING RALLY, CALLING IT "HOMAGE WHICH PANAMANIAN PEOPLE WILL PAY THEMSELVES." MATUTINO SAYS TREATY IS RESULT OF SATISFACTORY PATRIOTIC MISSION, WHICH ACHIEVED "MUCH MORE THAN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE MOMENT PERMITTED ONE TO PREDICT, AND ITS PRESENTATION TO PRES. LAKAS AT RALLY "SYMBOLIZES ITS PRESENTATION TO ALL THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PEOPLE." ONCE THE PEOPLE HAVE THE TREATY, EDIT CONTINUES, THEY CAN STUDY IT AND DECIDE IN THEIR OWN CONSCIENCE HOW TO "EXPRESS THEMSELVES IN FREE, SECRET AND SPONTANEOUS VOTE."

5-PRO-GOP AFTERNOONER LA REPUBLICA SEPT. 7 ALSO HAILS RALLY AS "ANSWER TO ATTEMPTS OF RACALCITRANT GROUPS FROM NORTHERN NATION... AND SUPPORT FOR VICTORY WHICH HAS BEEN ACHIEVED; A VICTORY WHICH IS OF ALL PANAMANIANIS."

6-ESTRELLA COLUMNIST JORGE PROSPERI, REFERRING TO RALLY, SAYS THAT TORRIJOS "WILL TELL PEOPLE TRUTH ABOUT PROMISE WHICH SHOULD BE CONVERTED INTO SOMETHING EFFECTIVE AND REAL, IF IT IS TRUE THAT THE SPIRIT OF JUSTICE IS STILL BEATING IN THE US SOUL."

7-MATUTINO COLUMNIST LUIS RESTREPO SAYS NEW TREATY IS "INCALCULABLE MORAL TRIUMPH. US PRESIDENT HAS COMMITTED HIS NATION AND HIS PEOPLE, WITH GOVERNORS OF ALL AMERICA AS WITNESSES." IF SENATE REJECTS TREATY, RESTREPO CONTINUES, "IT WILL CAUSE A GRAVE OFFENSE TO WORLD OPINION AND IRREPARABLE HARM TO NORTHERN NATION ITSELF."

8-RESTREPO BELIEVES MOST IMPORTANT TASK OF GOP NOW IS TO

PREPARE PANAMANIAN FOR FUTURE: "MOMENT OF GREAT RESPONSIBILITY  
IS ARRIVING, AND THUS YOUNG INHERITORS OF THIS TRIUMPH SHOULD ACT  
WITH RESPONSIBILITY AND BEGIN TO PREPARE THEMSELVES TECHNOLOGICALLY  
AND SCIENTIFICALLY TO ASSUME COMMAND POSTS IN ALL INSTALLATIONS  
OF PANAMA CANAL AND IN ALL TERRITORY WHICH REVERTS TO THIS  
NATION." RESTREPO CONTINUES, "WE HAVE BEEN DENIED THE TECHNICAL  
EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC PARTICIPATION IN OPERATION OF CANAL."  
AND THEREFORE THE GOP SHOULD CHOOSE BEST STUDENTS TO GO ABROAD  
TO STUDY TO TAKE OVER JOBS OF RUNNING CANAL.

9-PRO-GOP CRITICA ONCE AGAIN NOT YET ON STREETS. WILL SEND  
CRITICA REACTION WHEN AVAILABLE. ITEM UNQUOTE JORDEN

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## Message Attributes

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QUOTE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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